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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/598,899	09/14/2006	Yasuhito Inagaki	09792909-6816	1813
26263 7590 06/17/2009 SONNENSCHN NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP P.O. BOX 061080 WACKER DRIVE STATION, SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606-1080				
EXAMINER				
LEE, DORIS L				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1796				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
06/17/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Attachment to Advisory Action

1. Applicants' amendment filed June 8, 2009 has been fully considered; however, the amendment has not been entered given that it raises other new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.

With respect to new issues, independent claims 30 and 37 have been amended to state that the sulfonic acid groups and/or sulfonate groups are introduced in an amount ranging from 0.1 mol% to 8.0 mol%. It is the examiner's position that this is a new issue since this combination was not presented before, i.e., claims dependent on 30 and 37 were not presented before with this combination. Therefore, the amendment would require further consideration and/or search.

2. In the interest of better enabling the applicants to assess the patentability of their claims, the following advisory is given: if the amendment had been entered, the rejections set forth in the previous office action would be withdrawn because Kitayama (US 6,827,882) no longer reads on the new limitation wherein the sulfonic acid groups and/or sulfonate groups are introduced in an amount ranging from 0.1 mol% to 8.0 mol%. However, the claims would not thereby automatically become allowable since the amendment if entered would raise new issues necessitating further search and examination.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Doris L. Lee whose telephone number is

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(571)270-3872. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 7:30 am to 5 pm and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vasu Jagannathan can be reached on (571)272-1119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Doris L Lee/
Examiner, Art Unit 1796

/Vasu Jagannathan/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1796